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ABSTRACT

Noting that sexual harassment has more to do with making victims feel powerless than with sex, this book advises adolescents and their parents on how to identify, stop, and prevent sexual harassment. Chapter 1, "What is Sexual Harassment, Anyway?" defines sexual harassment and details how harassment becomes assault. Chapter 2, "Why is Reporting Difficult?" discusses barriers to reporting sexual harassment, including embarrassment and society's mixed messages regarding sexuality. Chapter 3, "Does Sexual Harassment Have Harmful Effects?" examines responses to harassment such as blaming the victim, depression and post traumatic stress, and suicidal tendencies. Chapter 4, "Who are the Harassers and Victims?" includes information on the thought processes of harassers, types of male harassers, characteristics of victims, targeting of homosexual and suspected homosexual students, and parents' responses. Chapter 5, "Is There a Link between Harassment and Abuse?" discusses the priming process, a continuum of behavior ranging from sexual interest to sexual extremism. Chapter 6, "How Can Teens Fight Back?" includes suggestions for making "I" statements, starting a buddy system, documenting sexual harassment, using anger effectively, getting character references, and filing an informal complaint. Chapter 7, "Where Do You Find Help?" examines procedures for reporting sexual harassment to government agencies, hiring an attorney, obtaining legal protection, and building a support system. Chapter 8, "What Can Parents Do?" focuses on getting past parents' first responses, using parents as advocates, identifying depression, and improving family communication. Chapter 9, "Can Sexual Harassment Be Prevented?" discusses the need for public awareness, crafting sexual harassment policies, handling complaints, and the importance of continuing education. Included are forms for recording and reporting harassment. Contains 108 references. (KB)

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